Employees Union had submitted a memorandum dated 26th November, 1987 requesting for the take-over of the company by the Government of India. The matter regarding this company is already before the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction for examination under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Telecommunication services in Tripura

2616. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the subdivisional headquarters in Tripura remain delinked due to telecommunications difficulties;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 60 per cent of telephones of Agartala Town remain out of order for most of the time; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to improve telecommunications service in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir, except occasionally due to strike etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Although the telecommunication service at Tripura and State capital at Agartala are functioning satisfactorily. Following steps are being taken to improve it further:

(i) For preventing faults in local system at Agartala, upgradation of underground cables and rehabilitation of Distribution points have been initiated.

(ii) For improve reliability of telecom. networks to other smaller stations, including sub-divisional headquarters, smaller capacity wireless system are being proposed between Capital Agartala and the stations during 8th Plan.

Fall in the standard of industrial goods

2617. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the industrial goods produced in India are far below the international standards and their prices in domestics, markets, too, are very high; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to inquire into the causes of the low standards of industrial goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) It will not be correct to make a general statement that the industrial goods produced in India are far below the international standards and their prices in domestic markets, too, are very high. So far as quality aspect is concerned the Bureau of Indian Standards under its Certification Marking Scheme, ensures quality levels conforming to relevant Indian Standards. In order to make the Indian industry quality conscious, efforts are made to expose the Indian industries to international markets by allowing imports of certain goods under OGL and/or making BIS standards mandatory for large number of goods/commodities.

As regards prices, there are a number of products for which our prices are lower than international prices. Government's main thrust is also to make the Indian industries internally competitive and cost efficient.

(b) In specific areas where quality levels of industrial goods are below the required standards, BIS identifies the deficiencies and causes thereof and provides guidance and assistance for quality improvement.

Prices of medicines

2618. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appear-